(ii) The prices of 54%, 51 % and 49% of the above medicines have gone up during the years 1999,2000 and 2001, respectively.

(iii) The prices of 12%, 8% and 9% of the above medicines have * declined during the same period respectively.

(iv) The prices of 34%, 41 % and 42% of the above medicines have remained same during the same period respectively.

Profit margin for medicine manufacturers

355. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed profit margin for the manufacturers of medicines and drugs so that they are available at a reasonable prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c)The price fixation of the bulk drugs listed in the First Schedule to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) and the formulations based thereon is done in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. Fixation of maximum sale price of a scheduled bulk drug is done in accordance with the provisions of para 3 of the DPCO, 1995 which prescribes the rate of return for this purpose. Paras 7, 9 and 10 containing the provisions for pricing of scheduled formulations prescribe Maximum Allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) of return/margin.

Illegal keeping of wildlife

356. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SI RIG IREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of endangered, wild and prohibited animals are being kept illegally as pets in farm houses and residential houses;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered in the country during the last five years; and

(c) the progress of the registered cases and the action that has been contemplated against culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on theTable of the House.

Mongoose killing

357. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantity of mongoose hair was recovered recently just outside Delhi, as reported in the Media;

(b) if so, what punishment has been imposed by Government on mongoose poachers;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering discussion with the Education Department so as to put a ban on mongoose hairbrush in schools for painting;

(d) if so, by when such a ban would be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 29.1.2003 Gurgaon Police have seized about 25 kilograms of mongoose hair and arrested five persons under various provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Indian Penal Code.

(c) and (d) *Vide* notification dated 30-9-2002, the protection status of mongoose has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Part II, Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Now there is complete ban on possession of mongoose hair articles except under ownership certificate from Chief Wildlife Warden of the State concerned. Also, in this regard District Magistrates and Inspectors of schools of all the districts in the country have been addressed to discourage the use of mongoose hair brushes in schools.

(e) Does not arise.